29 OCT 1973

Ú.S. and Soviet Spies in Sky Mapped Conflict

High-flying U.S. supersonic spy planes and special Soviet satellites allowed the Israeli and Arab sides in the Middle East war to plan battle tactics and kept the superpowers well informed on the battlefield situation, articles in two publications said

Sunday.

Russia's spy satellites probably kept the Kremlin better informed about the Middle East war than Egypt, Syria or Israel—and possibly the United States, the magazine New Scientist said in London.

The editor of the authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahram wrote that U.S. aerial reconnaissance had shown Israel where to attempt to break Egyptian forces on the Suez Canal front.

New Scientist said Russia put five spy satellites into orbit during the war, A sixth, already in orbit when the war started, was brought back ahead of schedule to give Red Army experts a closeup view of tank battles on the Sinai and Syrian fronts from film taken immedi-

ately after the outbreak of hostitlities.

It said the Eussians always had the, and sometimes three, satellites aloft sending back fresh batches of film showing detail only a foot across.

The satellites must also have revealed U.S. naval movements and the extent of American efforts to make good Israel's losses in equipment.